



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Proposed Bill No. 580**

LCO No. 2593

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

**AN ACT CREATING OPERATION APPRECIATION ASSISTANCE AND  
INCREASING BENEFITS TO THE STATE NATIONAL GUARD AND  
MILITARY RESERVE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 That the general statutes be amended to provide the following  
2 additional benefits for members of the state National Guard and  
3 military reservists in combat, and their families: (1) Two hundred fifty  
4 thousand dollars in state-funded life insurance coverage, (2) eligibility  
5 for up to two thousand dollars in family assistance for living expenses  
6 from a new Operation Appreciation Assistance Fund supported by  
7 voluntary state income taxpayer check off, (3) deferral without interest  
8 of state income tax payments and payment of property tax on a  
9 principal residence and primary motor vehicles for the duration of  
10 combat duty plus six months, (4) guaranteed paid leave by all  
11 employers for the duration of combat duty at full pay for the first  
12 thirty days and payment of the difference between military pay and  
13 regular pay for any day of combat duty beyond the first thirty days, (5)  
14 requiring health care providers to accept and health care insurers to  
15 coordinate benefits with Tricare, and (6) linking of all information

16 concerning assistance available to National Guard members and  
17 military reservists during combat duty in a single website maintained  
18 by the Military Department.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To assist members of the state National Guard and their families.